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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®
TM
I AM THE GREAT AND POWERFUL WIZARD--
--AND MY ROBOT-SPIDER WILL SLAY YOU, WEB-SLINGER!
J.R.JR. + AM.

While attending a demonstration in radiology, student PETER PARKER was bitten by a spider which had accidentally been exposed to RADIOACTIVE RAYS. Through a miracle of science, Peter soon found that he had GAINED the arachnid's powers...and had, in effect, become a human spider...

STAN LEE PRESENTS: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

ALL THEY WANT TO DO IS KILL YOU, SPIDER-MAN...

STORY DENNY O'NEIL / BREAKDOWNS JOHN ROMITA, JR. / FINISHES JIM MOONEY / LETTERING JIM NOVAK / COLORING BOB SHAREN / EDITING ALLEN MILGROM / EDITOR-IN-CHIEFING JIM SHOOTER

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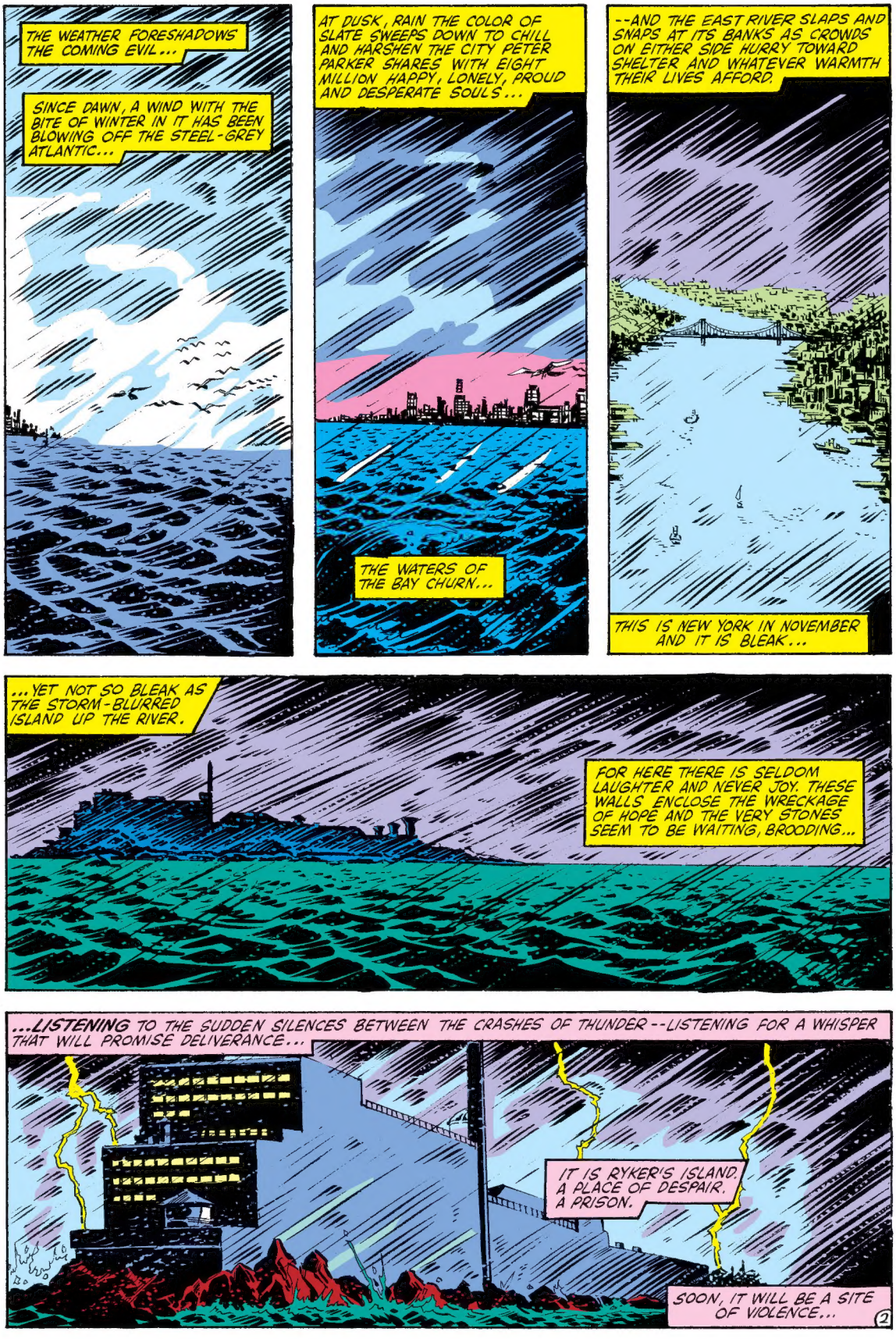
THE WEATHER FORESHADOWS THE COMING EVIL...
SINCE DAWN, A WIND WITH THE BITE OF WINTER IN IT HAS BEEN BLOWING OFF THE STEEL-GREY ATLANTIC...
AT DUSK, RAIN THE COLOR OF SLATE SWEEPS DOWN TO CHILL AND HARSHEN THE CITY PETER PARKER SHARES WITH EIGHT MILLION HAPPY, LONELY, PROUD AND DESPERATE SOULS...
THE WATERS OF THE BAY CHURN...
--AND THE EAST RIVER SLAPS AND SNAPS AT ITS BANKS AS CROWDS ON EITHER SIDE HURRY TOWARD SHELTER AND WHATEVER WARMTH THEIR LIVES AFFORD.
THIS IS NEW YORK IN NOVEMBER AND IT IS BLEAK...
...YET NOT SO BLEAK AS THE STORM-BLURRED ISLAND UP THE RIVER.
FOR HERE THERE IS SELDOM LAUGHTER AND NEVER JOY. THESE WALLS ENCLOSE THE WRECKAGE OF HOPE AND THE VERY STONES SEEM TO BE WAITING, BROODING...
...LISTENING TO THE SUDDEN SILENCES BETWEEN THE CRASHES OF THUNDER--LISTENING FOR A WHISPER THAT WILL PROMISE DELIVERANCE...
IT IS RYKER'S ISLAND. A PLACE OF DESPAIR. A PRISON.
SOON, IT WILL BE A SITE OF VIOLENCE...
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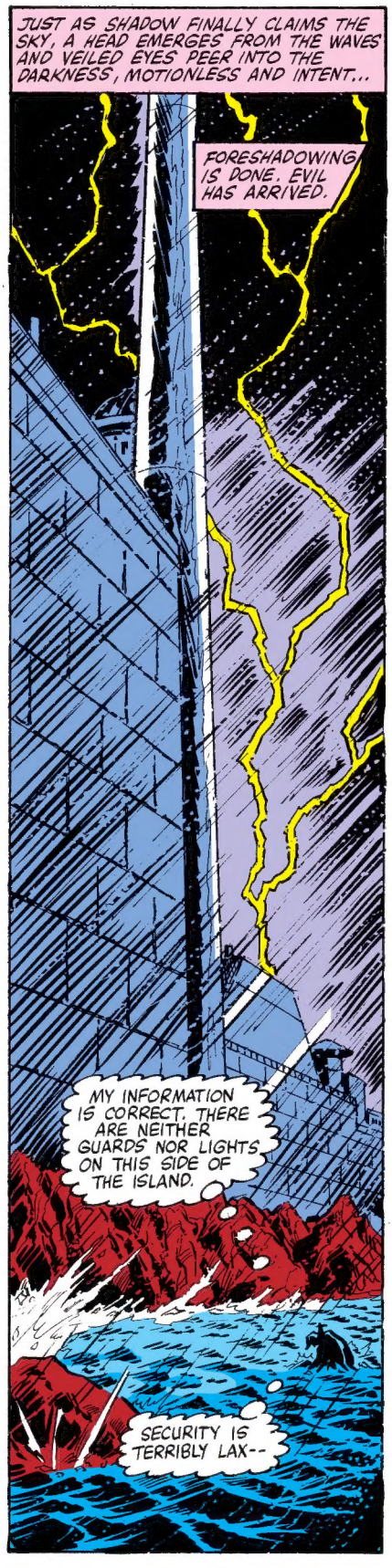
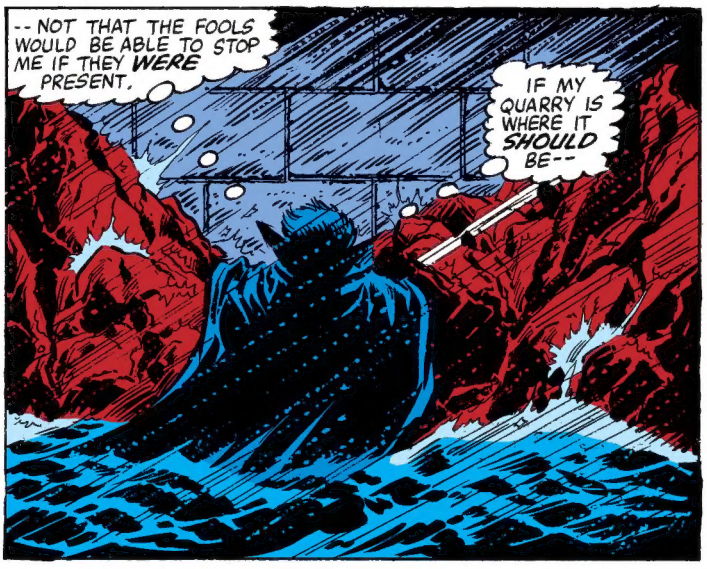
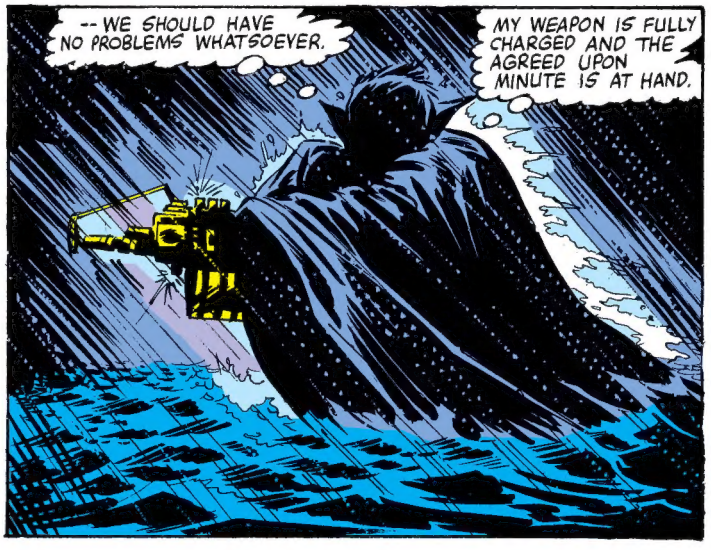
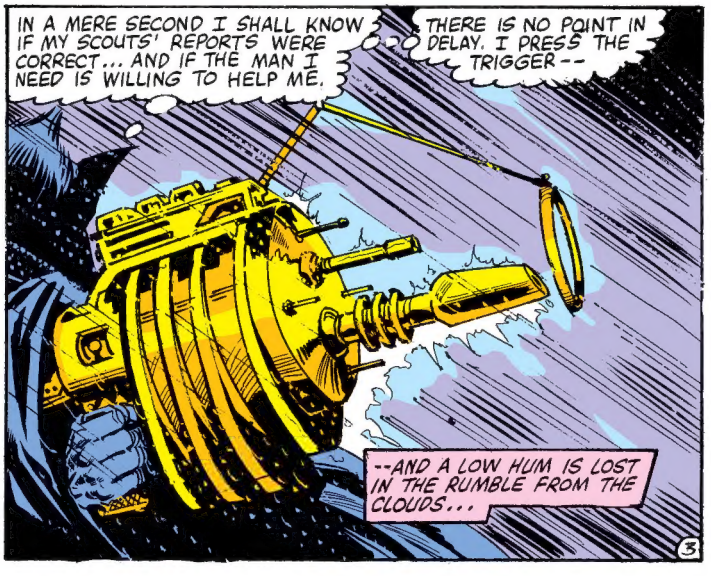
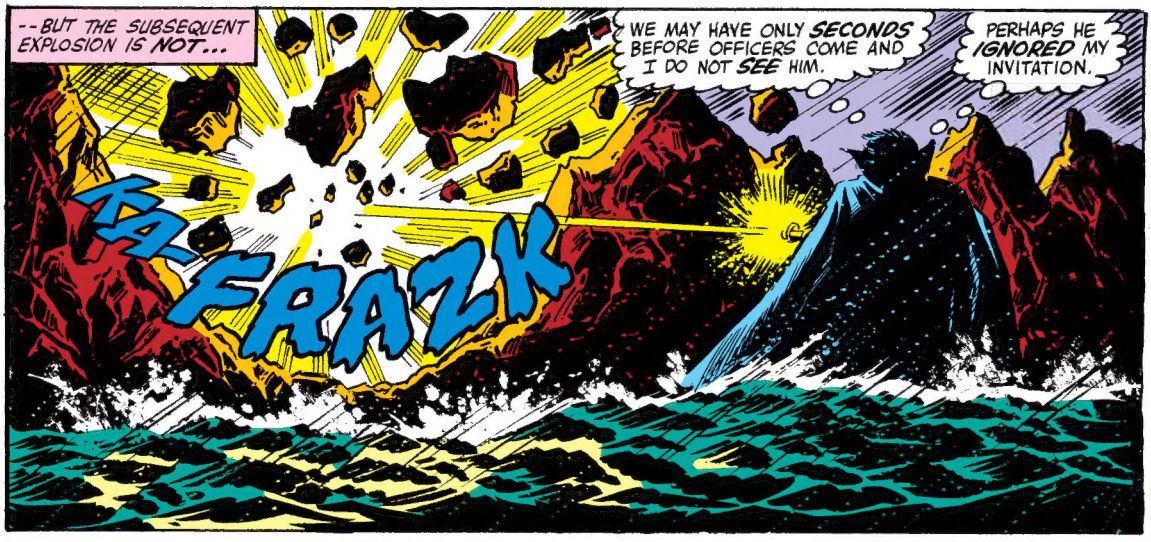
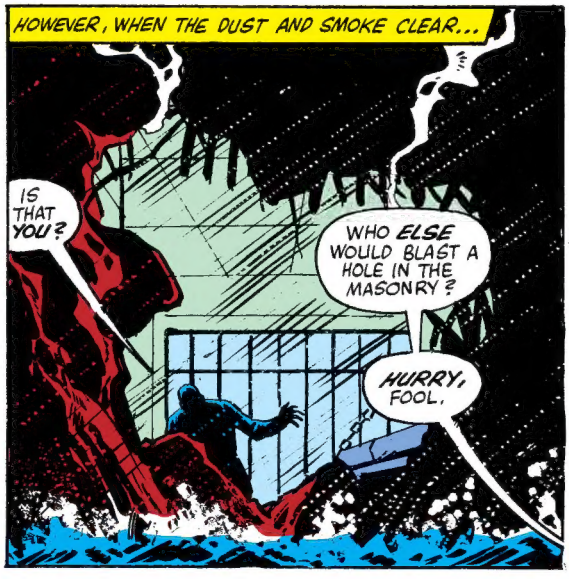

JUST AS SHADOW FINALLY CLAIMS THE SKY, A HEAD EMERGES FROM THE WAVES AND VEILED EYES PEER INTO THE DARKNESS, MOTIONLESS AND INTENT...
FORESHADOWING IS DONE. EVIL HAS ARRIVED.
MY INFORMATION IS CORRECT. THERE ARE NEITHER GUARDS NOR LIGHTS ON THIS SIDE OF THE ISLAND.
SECURITY IS TERRIBLY LAX--


--NOT THAT THE FOOLS WOULD BE ABLE TO STOP ME IF THEY WERE PRESENT.
IF MY QUARRY IS WHERE IT SHOULD BE--


--WE SHOULD HAVE NO PROBLEMS WHATSOEVER.
MY WEAPON IS FULLY CHARGED AND THE AGREED UPON MINUTE IS AT HAND.


IN A MERE SECOND I SHALL KNOW IF MY SCOUTS' REPORTS WERE CORRECT... AND IF THE MAN I NEED IS WILLING TO HELP ME.
THERE IS NO POINT IN DELAY. I PRESS THE TRIGGER--
--AND A LOW HUM IS LOST IN THE RUMBLE FROM THE CLOUDS...

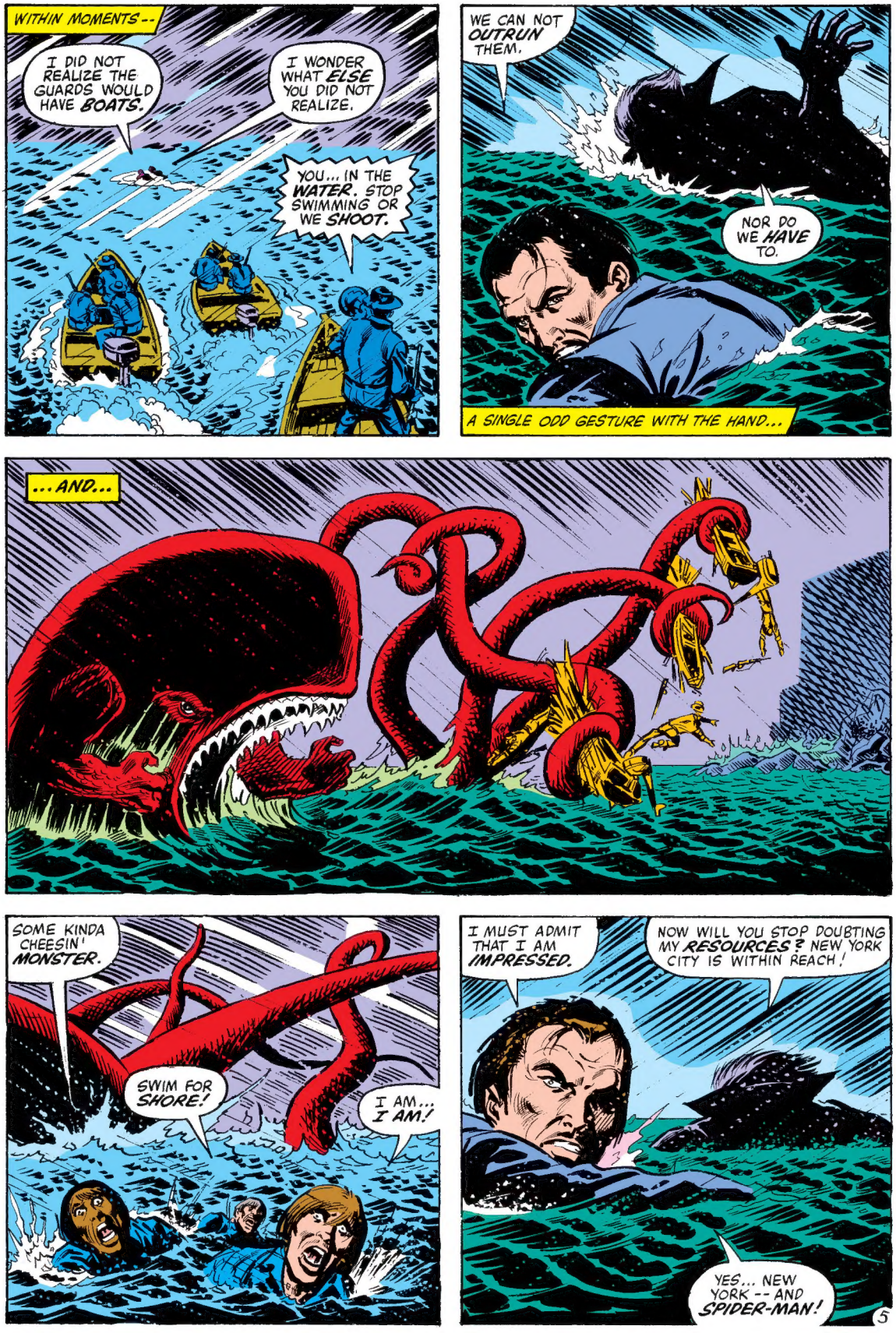

--BUT THE SUBSEQUENT EXPLOSION IS NOT...
KA-FRAZK
WE MAY HAVE ONLY SECONDS BEFORE OFFICERS COME AND I DO NOT SEE HIM.
PERHAPS HE IGNORED MY INVITATION.

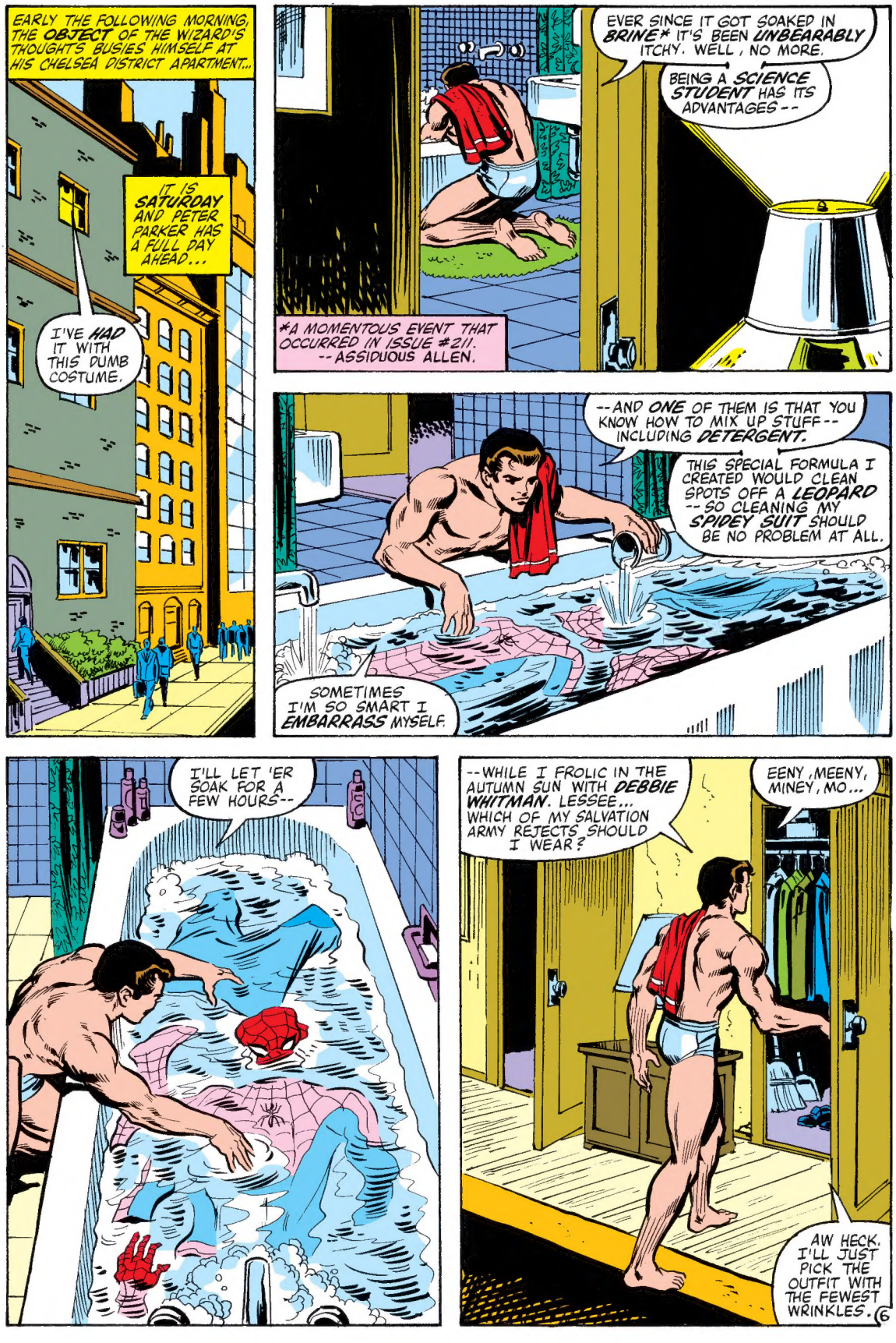

HOWEVER, WHEN THE DUST AND SMOKE CLEAR...
IS THAT YOU?
WHO ELSE WOULD BLAST A HOLE IN THE MASONRY?
HURRY, FOOL.

WATCH YOUR TONGUE. IT IS DANGEROUS TO INSULT ME--

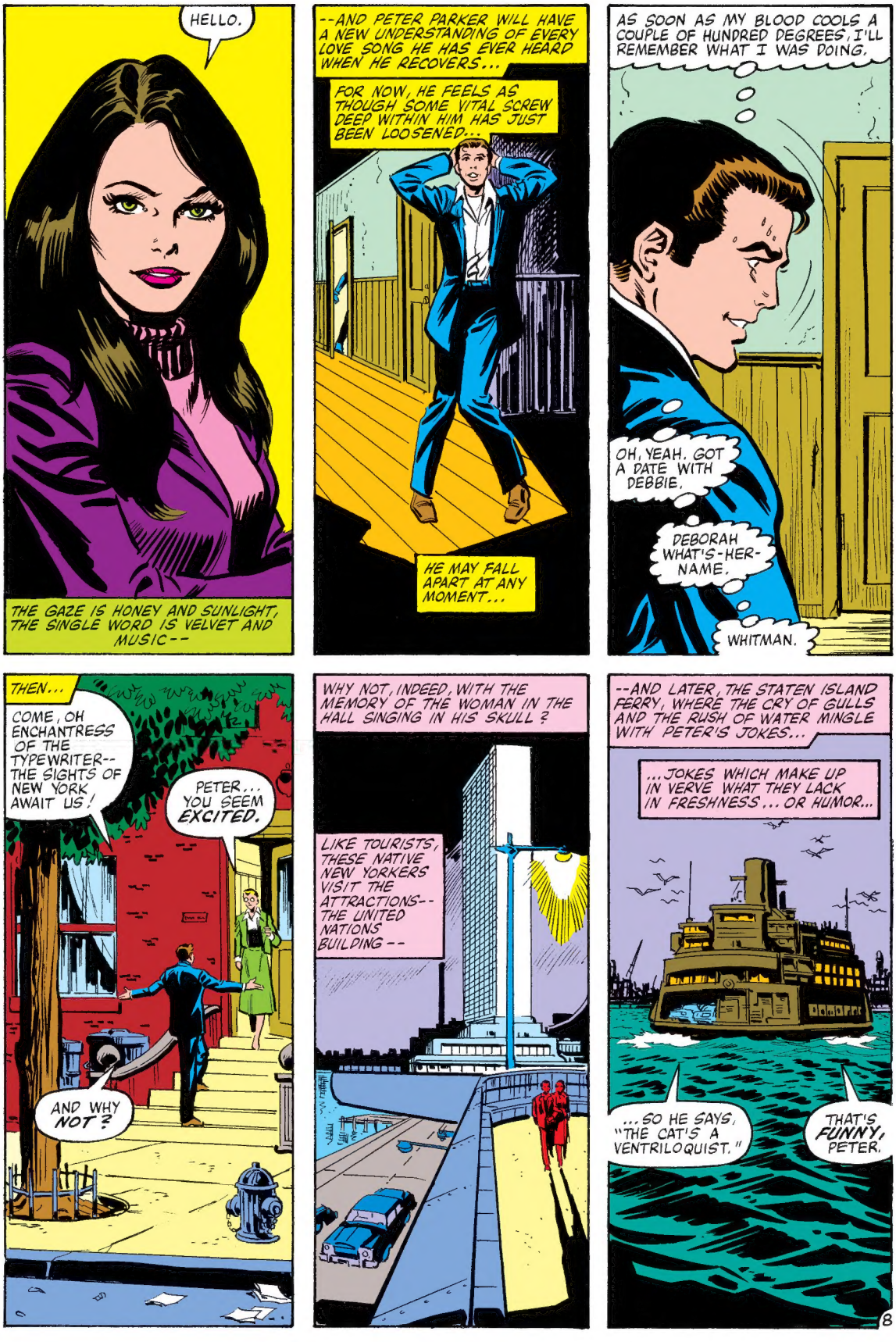
--FOR I AM THE WIZARD AND YOU WOULD DO WELL TO REMEMBER IT!

THAT IS OF LITTLE IMPORT TO ME!
THE ALARM IS SOUNDING. EITHER JOIN ME OR STAY --BUT DECIDE!
I'M COMING.

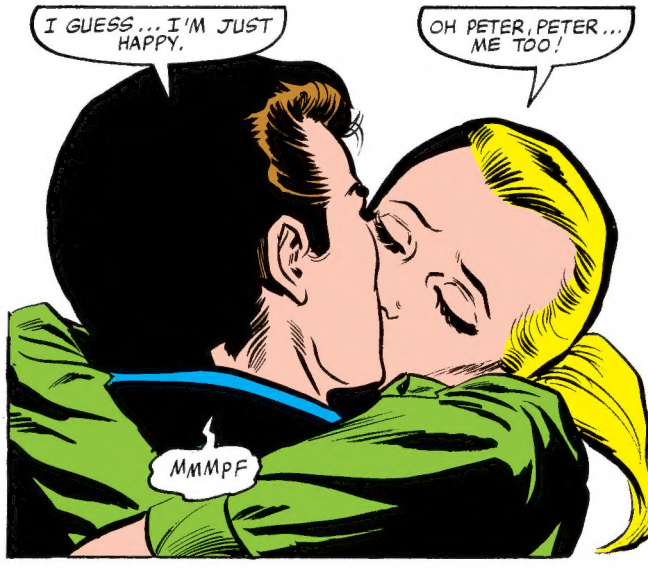

WITHIN MOMENTS--
I DID NOT REALIZE THE GUARDS WOULD HAVE BOATS.
I WONDER WHAT ELSE YOU DID NOT REALIZE.
YOU... IN THE WATER. STOP SWIMMING OR WE SHOOT.
WE CAN NOT OUTRUN THEM.
NOR DO WE HAVE TO.
A SINGLE ODD GESTURE WITH THE HAND...
...AND...
SOME KINDA CHEESIN' MONSTER.
SWIM FOR SHORE!
I AM... I AM!
I MUST ADMIT THAT I AM IMPRESSED.
NOW WILL YOU STOP DOUBTING MY RESOURCES? NEW YORK CITY IS WITHIN REACH!
YES... NEW YORK -- AND SPIDER-MAN!

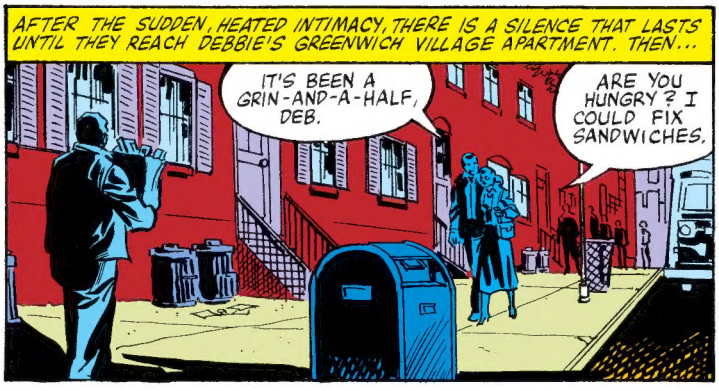

EARLY THE FOLLOWING MORNING, THE OBJECT OF THE WIZARD'S THOUGHTS BUSIES HIMSELF AT HIS CHELSEA DISTRICT APARTMENT...
IT IS SATURDAY AND PETER PARKER HAS A FULL DAY AHEAD...
I'VE HAD IT WITH THIS DUMB COSTUME.
EVER SINCE IT GOT SOAKED IN BRINE* IT'S BEEN UNBEARABLY ITCHY. WELL, NO MORE.
BEING A SCIENCE STUDENT HAS ITS ADVANTAGES--
*A MOMENTOUS EVENT THAT OCCURRED IN ISSUE #211. --ASSIDUOUS ALLEN.
--AND ONE OF THEM IS THAT YOU KNOW HOW TO MIX UP STUFF-- INCLUDING DETERGENT.
THIS SPECIAL FORMULA I CREATED WOULD CLEAN SPOTS OFF A LEOPARD --SO CLEANING MY SPIDEY SUIT SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM AT ALL.
SOMETIMES I'M SO SMART I EMBARRASS MYSELF.
I'LL LET 'ER SOAK FOR A FEW HOURS--
--WHILE I FROLIC IN THE AUTUMN SUN WITH DEBBIE WHITMAN. LESSEE... WHICH OF MY SALVATION ARMY REJECTS SHOULD I WEAR?
EENY, MEENY, MINEY, MO...
AW HECK. I'LL JUST PICK THE OUTFIT WITH THE FEWEST WRINKLES.
6

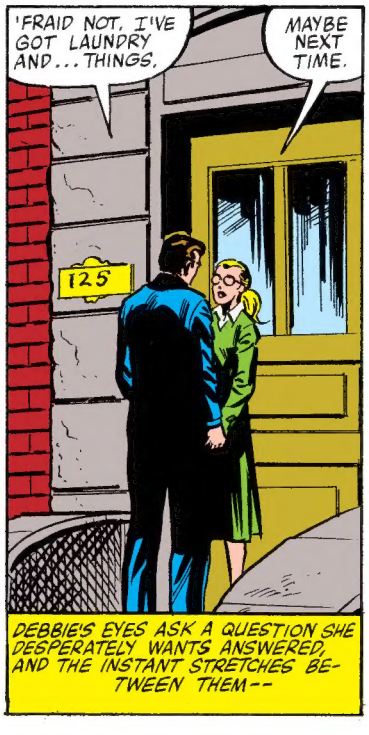
♪ MAGGIE, MAGGIE, I'M SHORE GLAD YER NAME AIN'T AGGIE... ♪
OH NO! NOT ON SATURDAY MORNING--! THAT COUNTRY-AND-WESTERN CATER-WAULING FROM NEXT DOOR...
AS A MULE WITH A TOOTHACHE, THAT GUY'S TERRIFIC! AS A SINGER... SHEESH!
♪ 'CAUSE I NEVER MET A AGGIE WHO WASN'T DRAGGY ♫
I SUPPOSE STRANGLING HIM WOULD BE A BIT EXTREME...AND HE LAUGHS AT MERE COMPLAINTS.
WONDER WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE... A GIANT TONSIL IN HIDEOUS AGONY, MAYBE?
I'LL DRESS HERE IN THE CLOSET, WHERE THE SCREECHING IS ONLY UNBEARABLE--
NOR TO BE QUITE TRUTHFUL SCAGGY
--AND RUN OUT INTO THE HALL WHEN I'M FINISHED.
GOOD THING I DON'T HAVE ANY HOMEWORK TO DO--OR ANY OTHER REASON TO STAY AT HOME.
A DATE WITH DEBBIE WHITMAN ISN'T THE MOST EXCITING THING IN THE WORLD, BUT IT BEATS LISTENING TO...
OH
MY
GOLLY
THAT MUST BE MY NEW NEIGHBOR AND SHE--
--SHE IS THE MOST GORGEOUS CREATURE I HAVE EVER, IN ALL MY LIFE, SEEN!

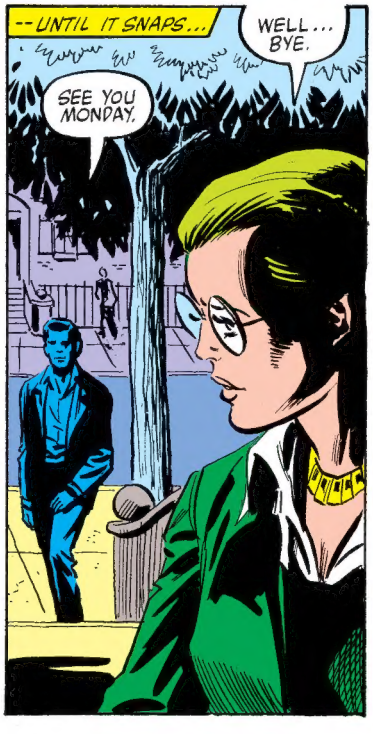

HELLO.
THE GAZE IS HONEY AND SUNLIGHT, THE SINGLE WORD IS VELVET AND MUSIC--
--AND PETER PARKER WILL HAVE A NEW UNDERSTANDING OF EVERY LOVE SONG HE HAS EVER HEARD WHEN HE RECOVERS...
FOR NOW, HE FEELS AS THOUGH SOME VITAL SCREW DEEP WITHIN HIM HAS JUST BEEN LOOSENED...
HE MAY FALL APART AT ANY MOMENT...
AS SOON AS MY BLOOD COOLS A COUPLE OF HUNDRED DEGREES, I'LL REMEMBER WHAT I WAS DOING.
OH, YEAH. GOT A DATE WITH DEBBIE.
DEBORAH WHAT'S-HER-NAME.
WHITMAN.
THEN...
COME, OH ENCHANTRESS OF THE TYPEWRITER-- THE SIGHTS OF NEW YORK AWAIT US!
PETER... YOU SEEM EXCITED.
AND WHY NOT?
WHY NOT, INDEED, WITH THE MEMORY OF THE WOMAN IN THE HALL SINGING IN HIS SKULL?
LIKE TOURISTS, THESE NATIVE NEW YORKERS VISIT THE ATTRACTIONS-- THE UNITED NATIONS BUILDING --
--AND LATER, THE STATEN ISLAND FERRY, WHERE THE CRY OF GULLS AND THE RUSH OF WATER MINGLE WITH PETER'S JOKES...
...JOKES WHICH MAKE UP IN VERVE WHAT THEY LACK IN FRESHNESS... OR HUMOR...
...SO HE SAYS, "THE CAT'S A VENTRILOQUIST."
THAT'S FUNNY, PETER.

I GOT A MILLION OF 'EM!
ISN'T MISS LIBERTY GORGEOUS?
SHE CERTAINLY IS.
I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU LIKE THIS.

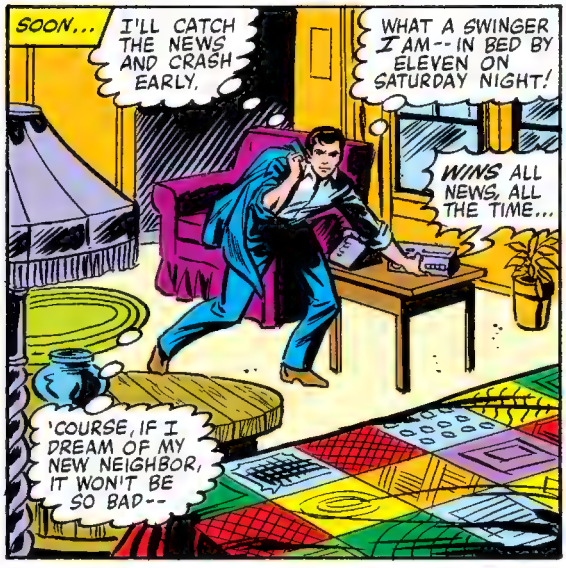

I GUESS... I'M JUST HAPPY.
OH PETER, PETER... ME TOO!
MMMPF


AFTER THE SUDDEN, HEATED INTIMACY, THERE IS A SILENCE THAT LASTS UNTIL THEY REACH DEBBIE'S GREENWICH VILLAGE APARTMENT. THEN...
IT'S BEEN A GRIN-AND-A-HALF, DEB.
ARE YOU HUNGRY? I COULD FIX SANDWICHES.

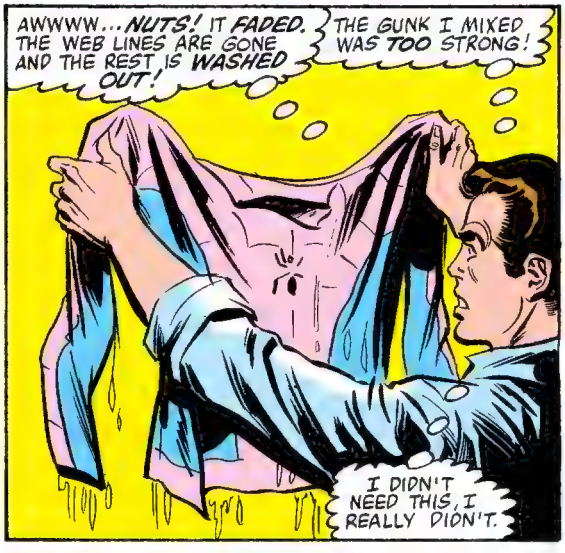

'FRAID NOT. I'VE GOT LAUNDRY AND... THINGS.
MAYBE NEXT TIME.
125
DEBBIE'S EYES ASK A QUESTION SHE DESPERATELY WANTS ANSWERED, AND THE INSTANT STRETCHES BETWEEN THEM--

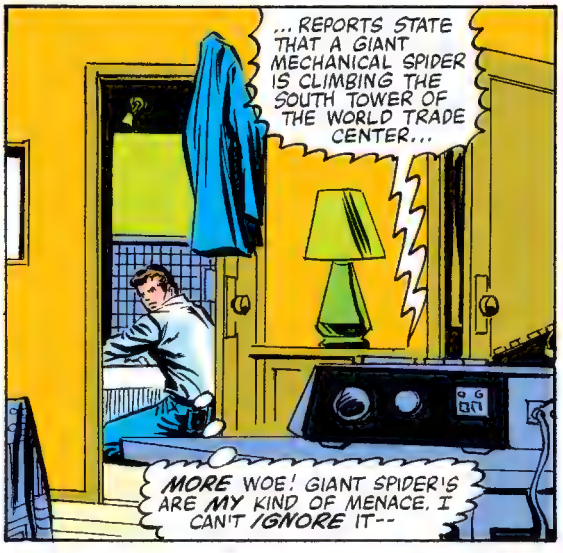

--UNTIL IT SNAPS...
WELL... BYE.
SEE YOU MONDAY.

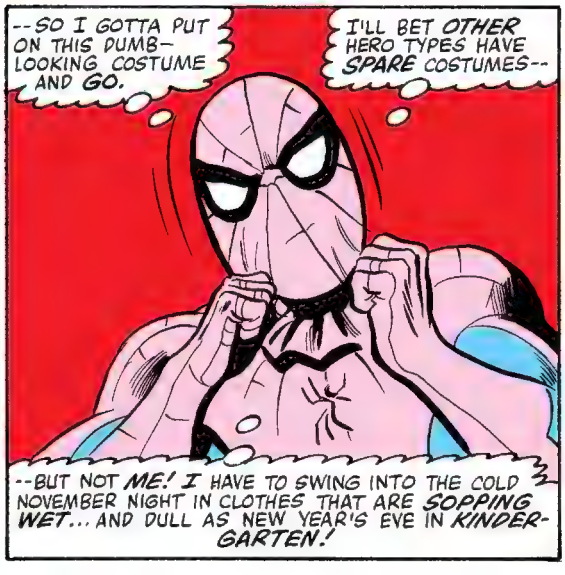
I HAVE A FEELING DEBBIE'S GOTTEN THE WRONG IDEA. SHE KISSED ME LIKE SHE MEANT IT AND...
... AND TO ME, SHE'S A NICE KID. PERIOD.

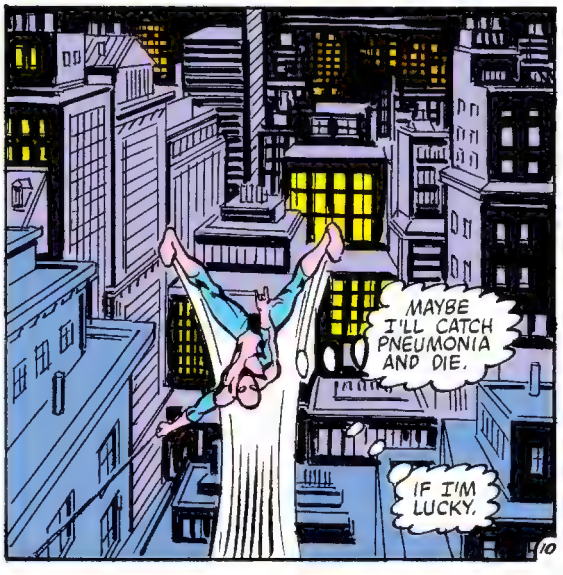

SOON...
I'LL CATCH THE NEWS AND CRASH EARLY.
WHAT A SWINGER I AM -- IN BED BY ELEVEN ON SATURDAY NIGHT!
WINS ALL NEWS, ALL THE TIME...
'COURSE, IF I DREAM OF MY NEW NEIGHBOR, IT WON'T BE SO BAD--

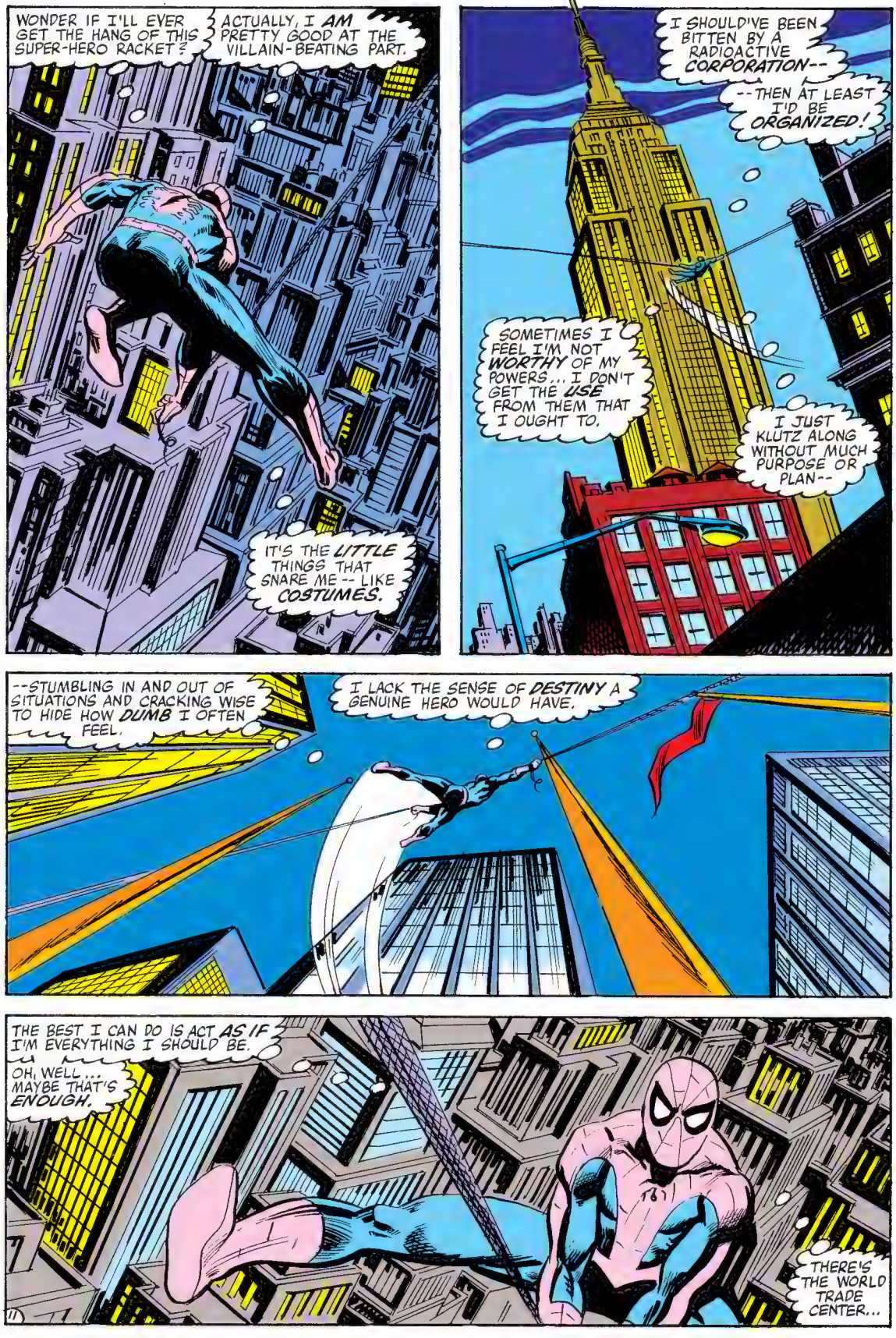
I ALMOST FORGOT! MY SPIDEY SUIT'S BEEN IN THE TUB SINCE THIS MORNING. IT OUGHTTA BE CLEAN BY NOW.
THE WATER'S A FUNNY COLOR...

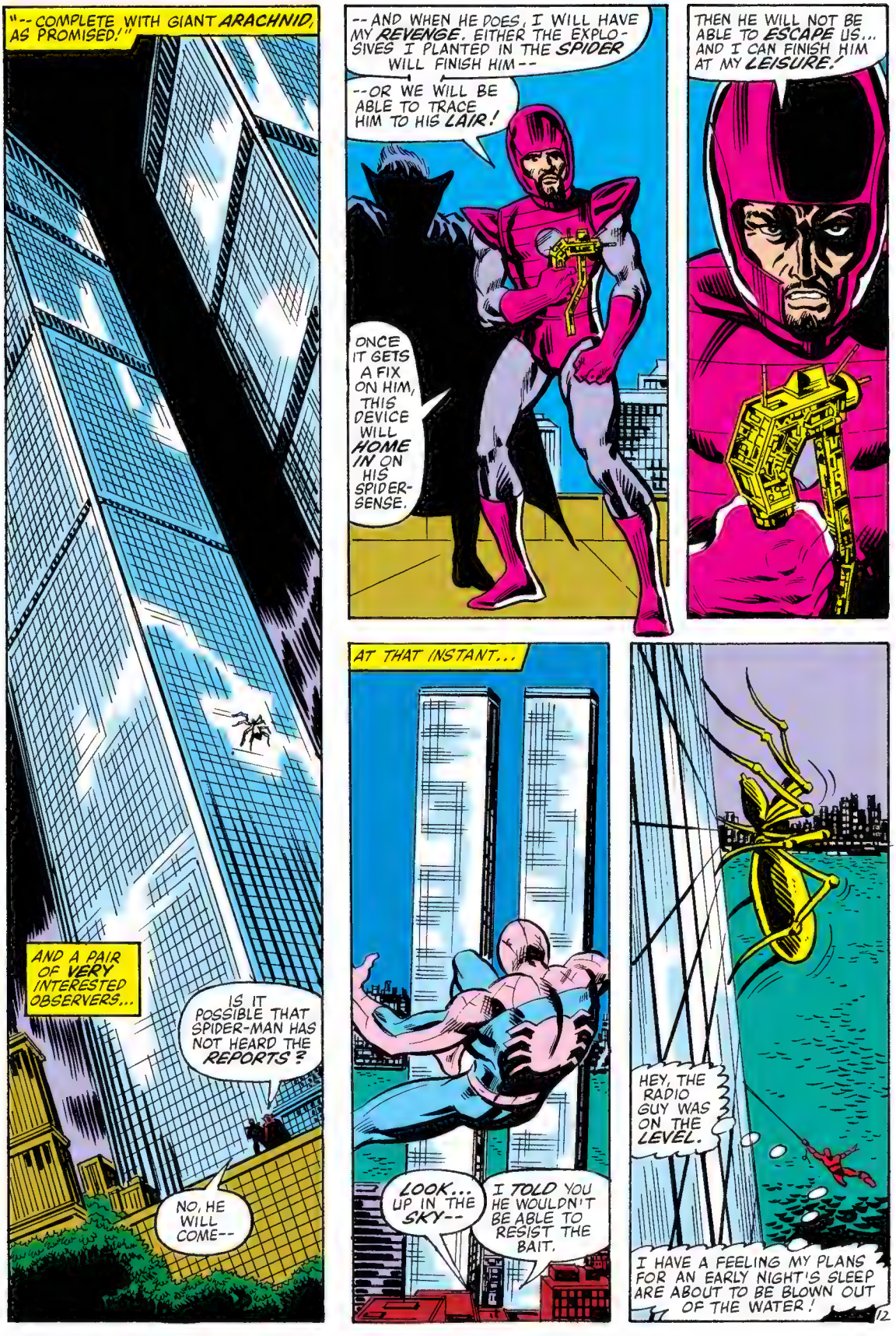

AWWWW... NUTS! IT FADED. THE WEB LINES ARE GONE AND THE REST IS WASHED OUT!
THE GUNK I MIXED WAS TOO STRONG!
I DIDN'T NEED THIS, I REALLY DIDN'T.

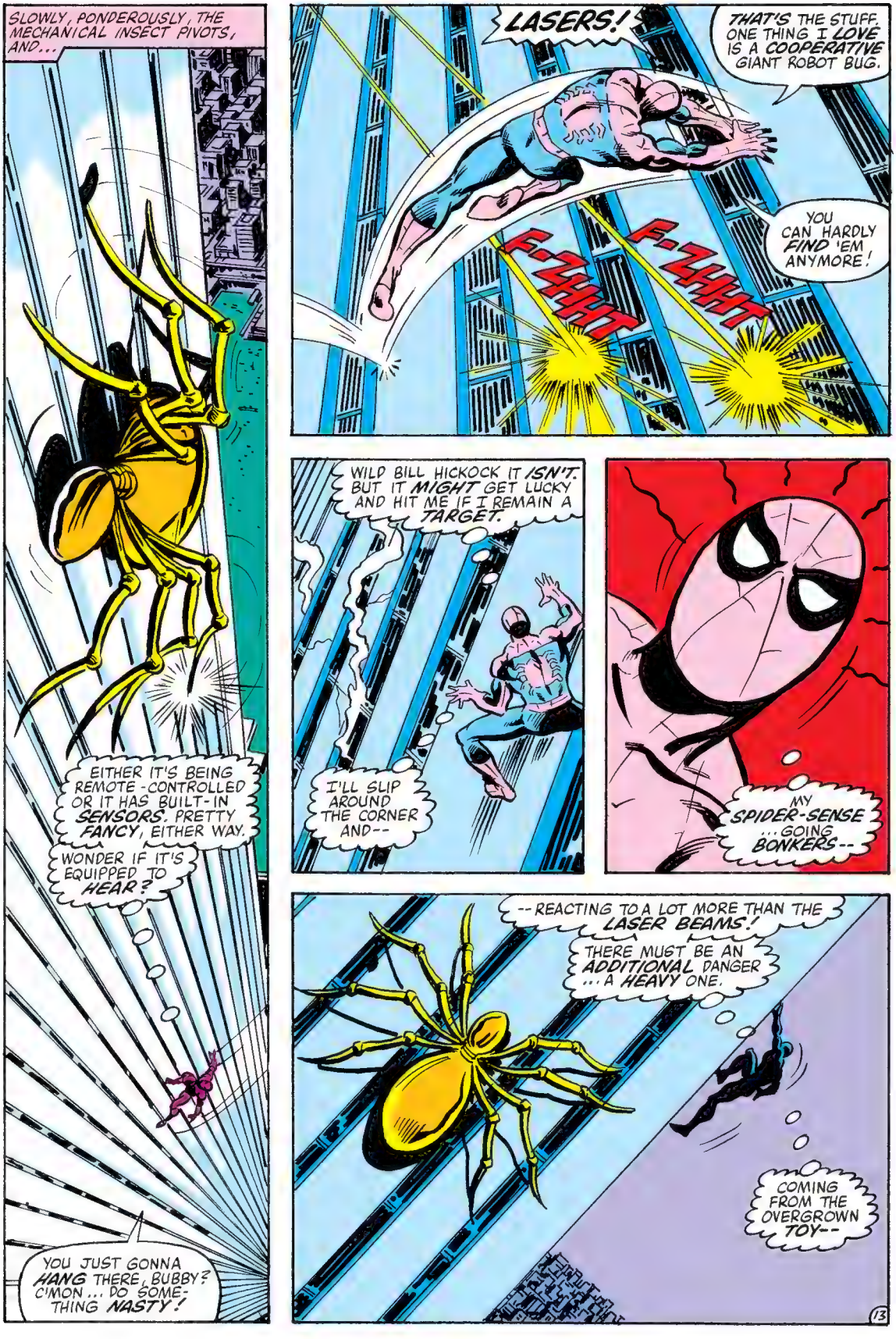

... REPORTS STATE THAT A GIANT MECHANICAL SPIDER IS CLIMBING THE SOUTH TOWER OF THE WORLD TRADE CENTER...
MORE WOE! GIANT SPIDER'S ARE MY KIND OF MENACE. I CAN'T IGNORE IT--

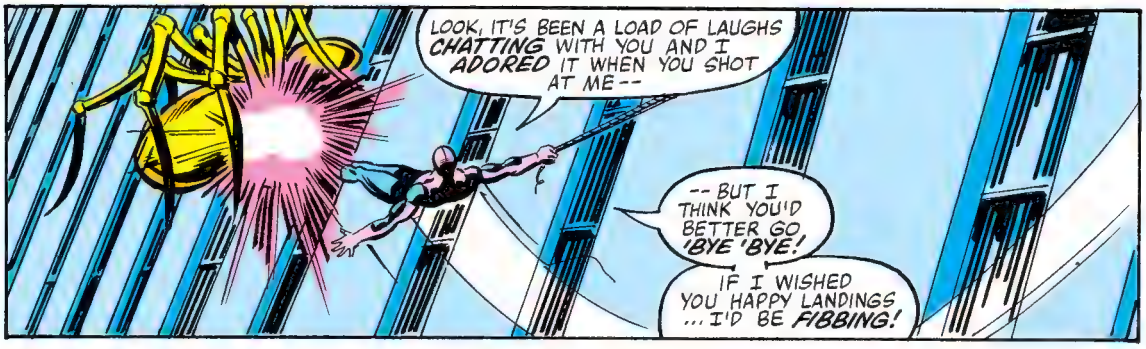

--SO I GOTTA PUT ON THIS DUMB-LOOKING COSTUME AND GO.
I'LL BET OTHER HERO TYPES HAVE SPARE COSTUMES--
--BUT NOT ME! I HAVE TO SWING INTO THE COLD NOVEMBER NIGHT IN CLOTHES THAT ARE SOPPING WET... AND DULL AS NEW YEAR'S EVE IN KINDERGARTEN!

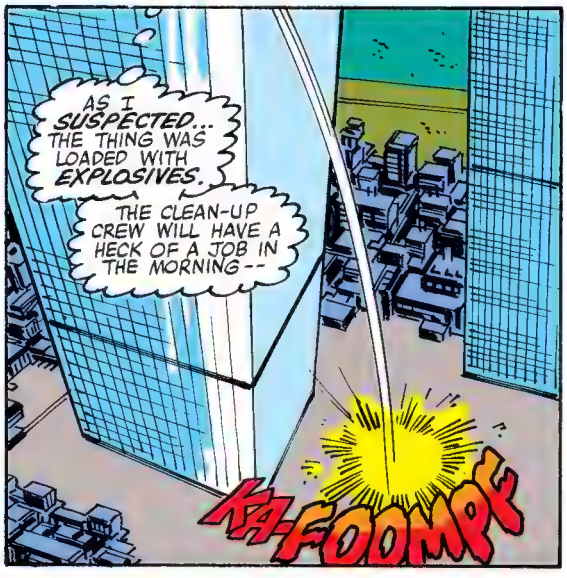

MAYBE I'LL CATCH PNEUMONIA AND DIE.
IF I'M LUCKY.


WONDER IF I'LL EVER GET THE HANG OF THIS SUPER-HERO RACKET?
ACTUALLY, I AM PRETTY GOOD AT THE VILLAIN-BEATING PART.
IT'S THE LITTLE THINGS THAT SNARE ME -- LIKE COSTUMES.
I SHOULD'VE BEEN BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE CORPORATION--
--THEN AT LEAST I'D BE ORGANIZED!
SOMETIMES I FEEL I'M NOT WORTHY OF MY POWERS... I DON'T GET THE USE FROM THEM THAT I OUGHT TO.
I JUST KLUTZ ALONG WITHOUT MUCH PURPOSE OR PLAN--
--STUMBLING IN AND OUT OF SITUATIONS AND CRACKING WISE TO HIDE HOW DUMB I OFTEN FEEL.
I LACK THE SENSE OF DESTINY A GENUINE HERO WOULD HAVE.
THE BEST I CAN DO IS ACT AS IF I'M EVERYTHING I SHOULD BE.
OH, WELL... MAYBE THAT'S ENOUGH.
THERE'S THE WORLD TRADE CENTER...


"-- COMPLETE WITH GIANT ARACHNID, AS PROMISED!"
AND A PAIR OF VERY INTERESTED OBSERVERS...
IS IT POSSIBLE THAT SPIDER-MAN HAS NOT HEARD THE REPORTS?
NO, HE WILL COME--
--AND WHEN HE DOES, I WILL HAVE MY REVENGE. EITHER THE EXPLOSIVES I PLANTED IN THE SPIDER WILL FINISH HIM--
--OR WE WILL BE ABLE TO TRACE HIM TO HIS LAIR!
ONCE IT GETS A FIX ON HIM, THIS DEVICE WILL HOME IN ON HIS SPIDER-SENSE.
THEN HE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ESCAPE US... AND I CAN FINISH HIM AT MY LEISURE!
AT THAT INSTANT...
LOOK... UP IN THE SKY--
I TOLD YOU HE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO RESIST THE BAIT.
HEY, THE RADIO GUY WAS ON THE LEVEL.
I HAVE A FEELING MY PLANS FOR AN EARLY NIGHT'S SLEEP ARE ABOUT TO BE BLOWN OUT OF THE WATER!

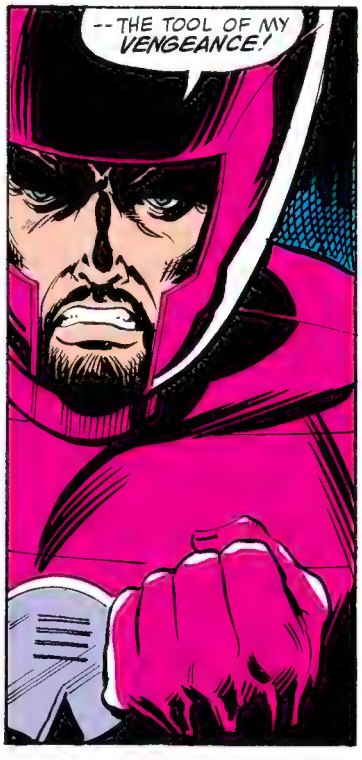

SLOWLY, PONDEROUSLY, THE MECHANICAL INSECT PIVOTS, AND...
EITHER IT'S BEING REMOTE-CONTROLLED OR IT HAS BUILT-IN SENSORS. PRETTY FANCY, EITHER WAY.
I WONDER IF IT'S EQUIPPED TO HEAR?
YOU JUST GONNA HANG THERE, BUBBY? C'MON... DO SOMETHING NASTY!
LASERS!
F-ZHHT
F-ZHHT
THAT'S THE STUFF. ONE THING I LOVE IS A COOPERATIVE GIANT ROBOT BUG.
YOU CAN HARDLY FIND 'EM ANYMORE!
WILD BILL HICKOCK IT ISN'T. BUT IT MIGHT GET LUCKY AND HIT ME IF I REMAIN A TARGET.
I'LL SLIP AROUND THE CORNER AND--
MY SPIDER-SENSE ...GOING BONKERS--
--REACTING TO A LOT MORE THAN THE LASER BEAMS!
THERE MUST BE AN ADDITIONAL DANGER ...A HEAVY ONE.
COMING FROM THE OVERGROWN TOY--

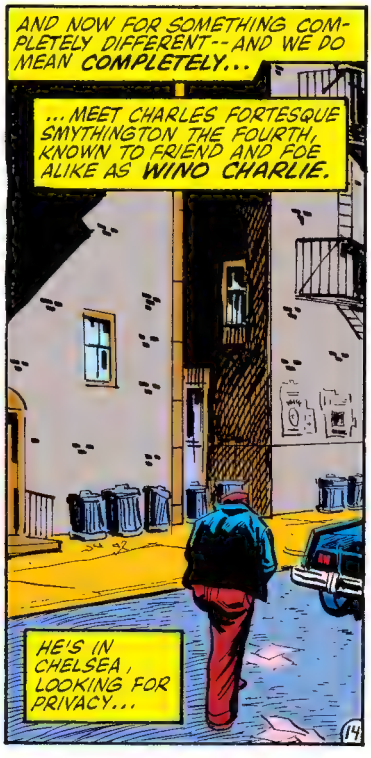

LOOK, IT'S BEEN A LOAD OF LAUGHS CHATTING WITH YOU AND I ADORED IT WHEN YOU SHOT AT ME--
-- BUT I THINK YOU'D BETTER GO, 'BYE 'BYE!
IF I WISHED YOU HAPPY LANDINGS ... I'D BE FIBBING!


AS I SUSPECTED... THE THING WAS LOADED WITH EXPLOSIVES.
THE CLEAN-UP CREW WILL HAVE A HECK OF A JOB IN THE MORNING--
KA-FOOMPF

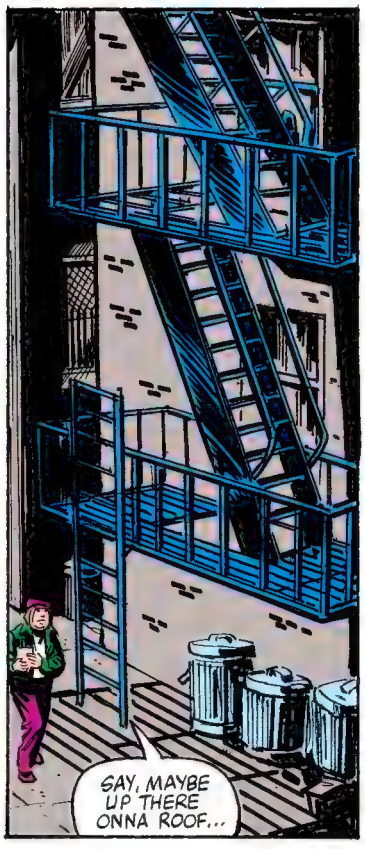
-- BUT AT LEAST I SAVED THE BUILDING... TO SAY NOTHING OF MY OWN DELICATE SKIN!
ONLY PROBLEM IS... I HAVE NO IDEA WHO WAS BEHIND THE CAPER.

IF SPIDER-MAN LOOKED DOWN AND ABOUT A THOUSAND YARDS TO THE WEST, HE'D HAVE HIS ANSWER--
WELL, WIZARD! DO YOU HAVE WHAT YOU REQUIRE?
YES... A READING ON THE WAVES EMITTED BY HIS SPIDER-SENSE --

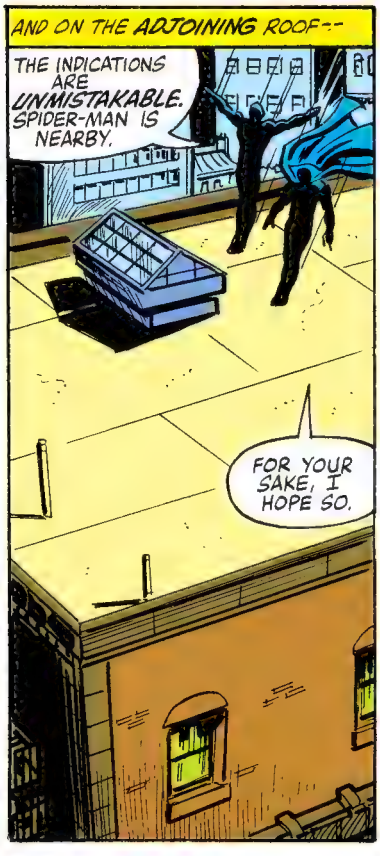

-- THE TOOL OF MY VENGEANCE!

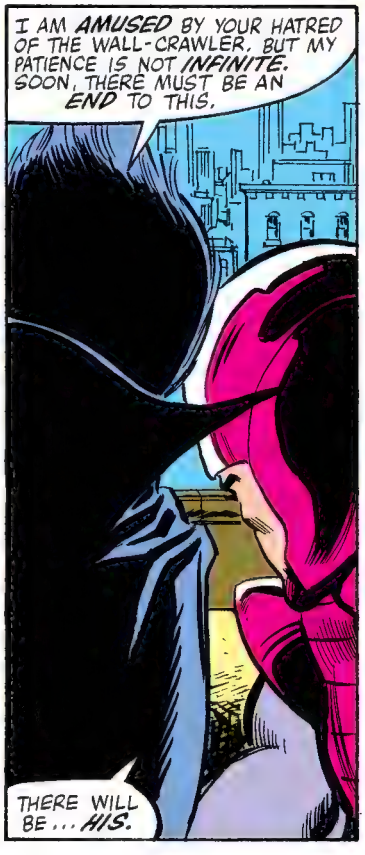

AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT -- AND WE DO MEAN COMPLETELY...
...MEET CHARLES FORTESQUE SMYTHINGTON THE FOURTH, KNOWN TO FRIEND AND FOE ALIKE AS WINO CHARLIE.
HE'S IN CHELSEA, LOOKING FOR PRIVACY...

COPS DON' UNNERSTAND ME... ALL'A TIME GIVIN' ME TH' SCURVY HASSLE ... KICKIN' ME OUTTA DOORWAYS...
... I JUST WANNA DRINK MY TOKAY IN PEACE...
GOTTA FIND ME A PLACE...

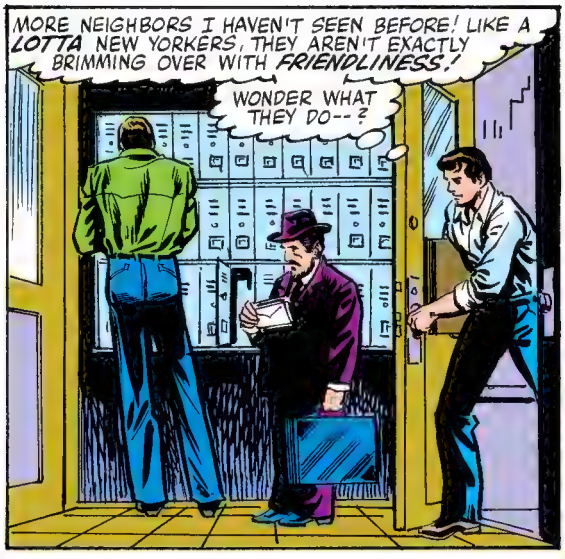

SAY, MAYBE UP THERE ONNA ROOF...

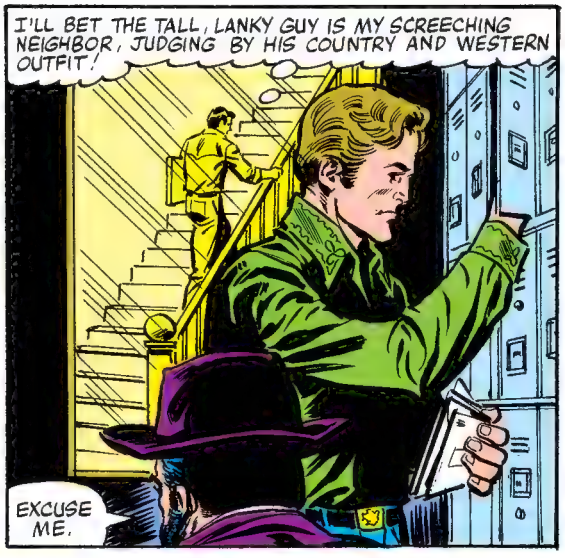
YEAH, IT'S THE ROOFTOP FOR ME...


AND ON THE ADJOINING ROOF--
THE INDICATIONS ARE UNMISTAKABLE. SPIDER-MAN IS NEARBY.
FOR YOUR SAKE, I HOPE SO.


I AM AMUSED BY YOUR HATRED OF THE WALL-CRAWLER. BUT MY PATIENCE IS NOT INFINITE. SOON, THERE MUST BE AN END TO THIS.
THERE WILL BE... HIS.

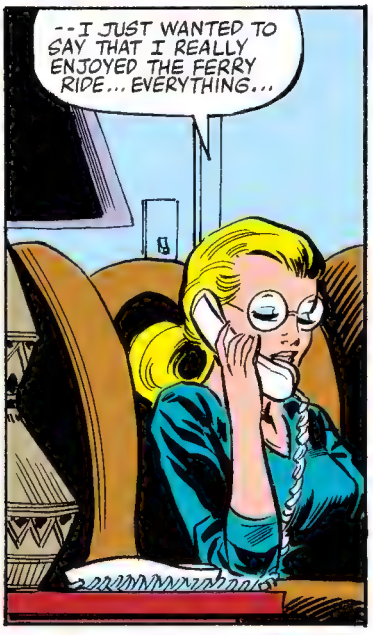
AT THAT MOMENT...
LAB FEE--! THEY'RE CHARGING ME A HUNDRED DOLLAR LAB FEE AT THE UNIVERSITY...
AND I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE I'M GONNA GET IT!


MORE NEIGHBORS I HAVEN'T SEEN BEFORE! LIKE A LOTTA NEW YORKERS, THEY AREN'T EXACTLY BRIMMING OVER WITH FRIENDLINESS!
WONDER WHAT THEY DO--?

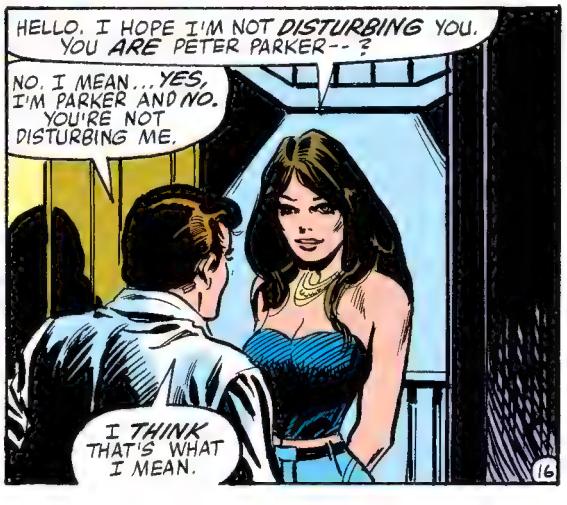

I'LL BET THE TALL, LANKY GUY IS MY SCREECHING NEIGHBOR, JUDGING BY HIS COUNTRY AND WESTERN OUTFIT!
EXCUSE ME.

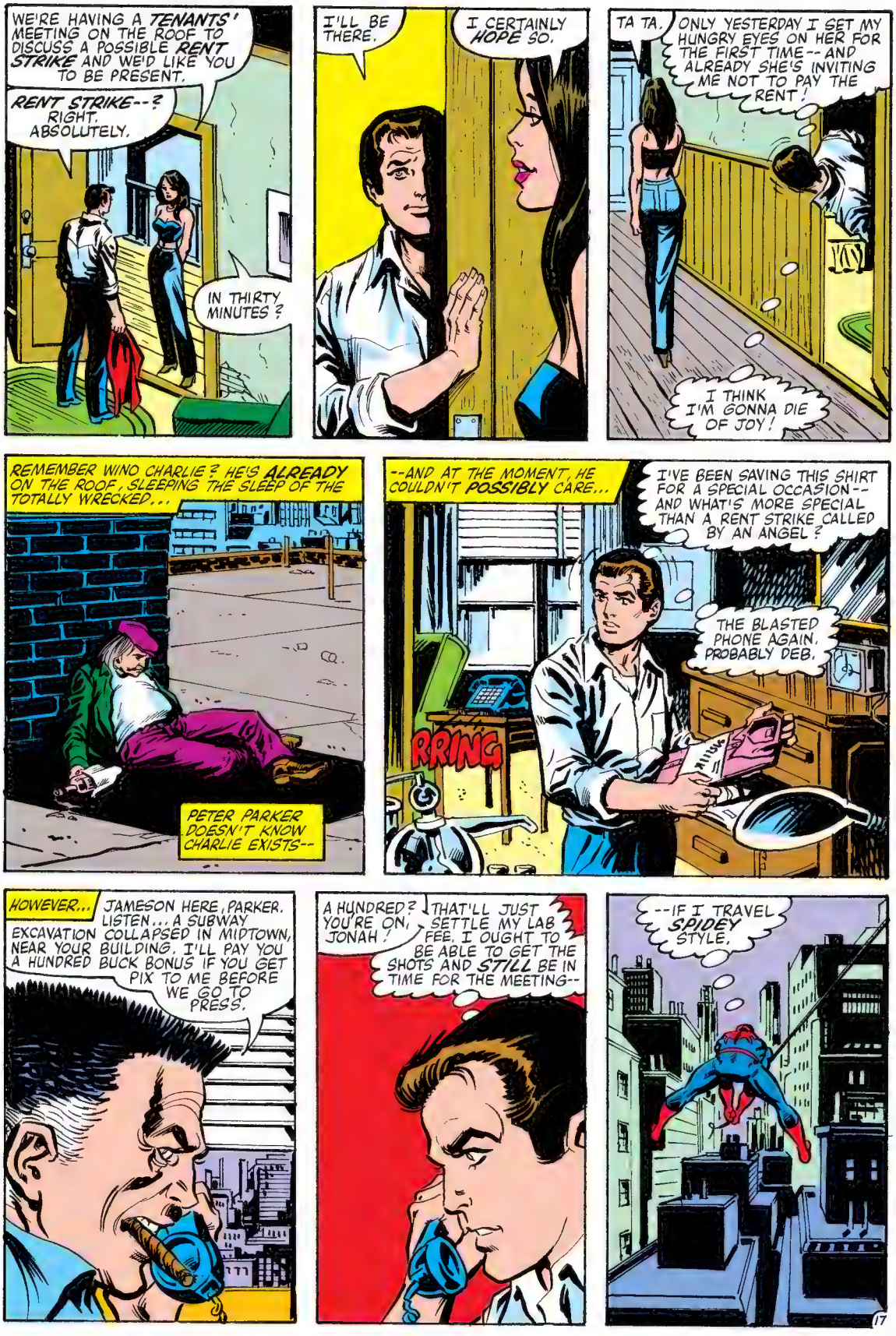
UPSTAIRS...
HOW HUMILIATING! I HAVE TO SEW MYSELF A NEW SPIDEY SUIT --OR KEEP WEARING THE FADED ONE.
GOOD THING AUNT MAY TAUGHT ME NEEDLE-CRAFT --EH?
RINNNNG

OW!
OH, HI, DEB.
I HOPE I'M NOT BOTHERING YOU, PETER--


--I JUST WANTED TO SAY THAT I REALLY ENJOYED THE FERRY RIDE... EVERYTHING...

YEAH, IT WAS TERRIFIC.
SOMEBODY'S AT THE DOOR, DEB. I'LL GET BACK TO YOU.
NOK NOK

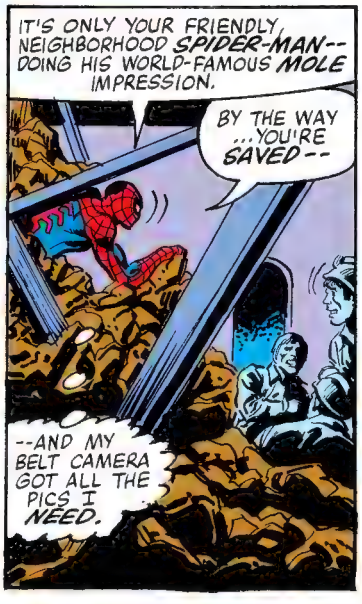

HELLO. I HOPE I'M NOT DISTURBING YOU. YOU ARE PETER PARKER--?
NO. I MEAN... YES, I'M PARKER AND NO. YOU'RE NOT DISTURBING ME.
I THINK THAT'S WHAT I MEAN.

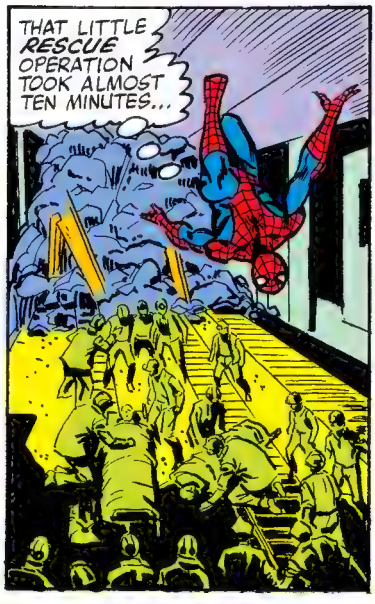

WE'RE HAVING A TENANTS' MEETING ON THE ROOF TO DISCUSS A POSSIBLE RENT STRIKE AND WE'D LIKE YOU TO BE PRESENT.
RENT STRIKE--? RIGHT. ABSOLUTELY.
IN THIRTY MINUTES?
I'LL BE THERE.
I CERTAINLY HOPE SO.
TA TA.
ONLY YESTERDAY I SET MY HUNGRY EYES ON HER FOR THE FIRST TIME--AND ALREADY SHE'S INVITING ME NOT TO PAY THE RENT!
I THINK I'M GONNA DIE OF JOY!
REMEMBER WINO CHARLIE? HE'S ALREADY ON THE ROOF, SLEEPING THE SLEEP OF THE TOTALLY WRECKED...
PETER PARKER DOESN'T KNOW CHARLIE EXISTS--
--AND AT THE MOMENT, HE COULDN'T POSSIBLY CARE...
I'VE BEEN SAVING THIS SHIRT FOR A SPECIAL OCCASION--AND WHAT'S MORE SPECIAL THAN A RENT STRIKE CALLED BY AN ANGEL?
THE BLASTED PHONE AGAIN. PROBABLY DEB.
RRING
HOWEVER... JAMESON HERE, PARKER. LISTEN... A SUBWAY EXCAVATION COLLAPSED IN MIDTOWN, NEAR YOUR BUILDING. I'LL PAY YOU A HUNDRED BUCK BONUS IF YOU GET PIX TO ME BEFORE WE GO TO PRESS.
A HUNDRED? YOU'RE ON, JONAH!
THAT'LL JUST SETTLE MY LAB FEE. I OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO GET THE SHOTS AND STILL BE IN TIME FOR THE MEETING--
--IF I TRAVEL SPIDEY STYLE.

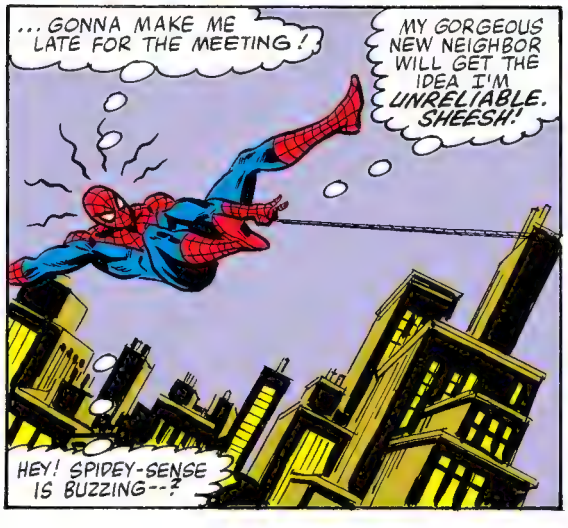
BUZZ OFF, SPIDER-MAN. WE'RE NOT LETTIN' YOU OR ANYBODY ELSE DOWN THERE.
DON'T BE LIKE THAT, GUYS. MAYBE I CAN HELP--

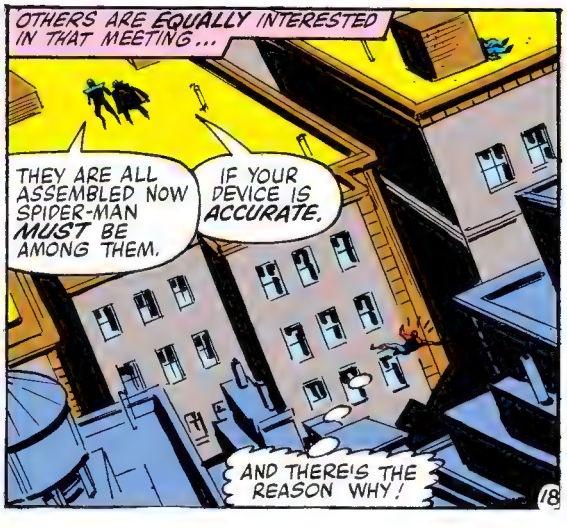
-- BESIDES, I'D GET WORTHLESS PHOTOS IF I STAYED ON THE STREET.
THREE OF OUR MEN... TRAPPED.
WE'LL NEVER GET 'EM OUT IN TIME!

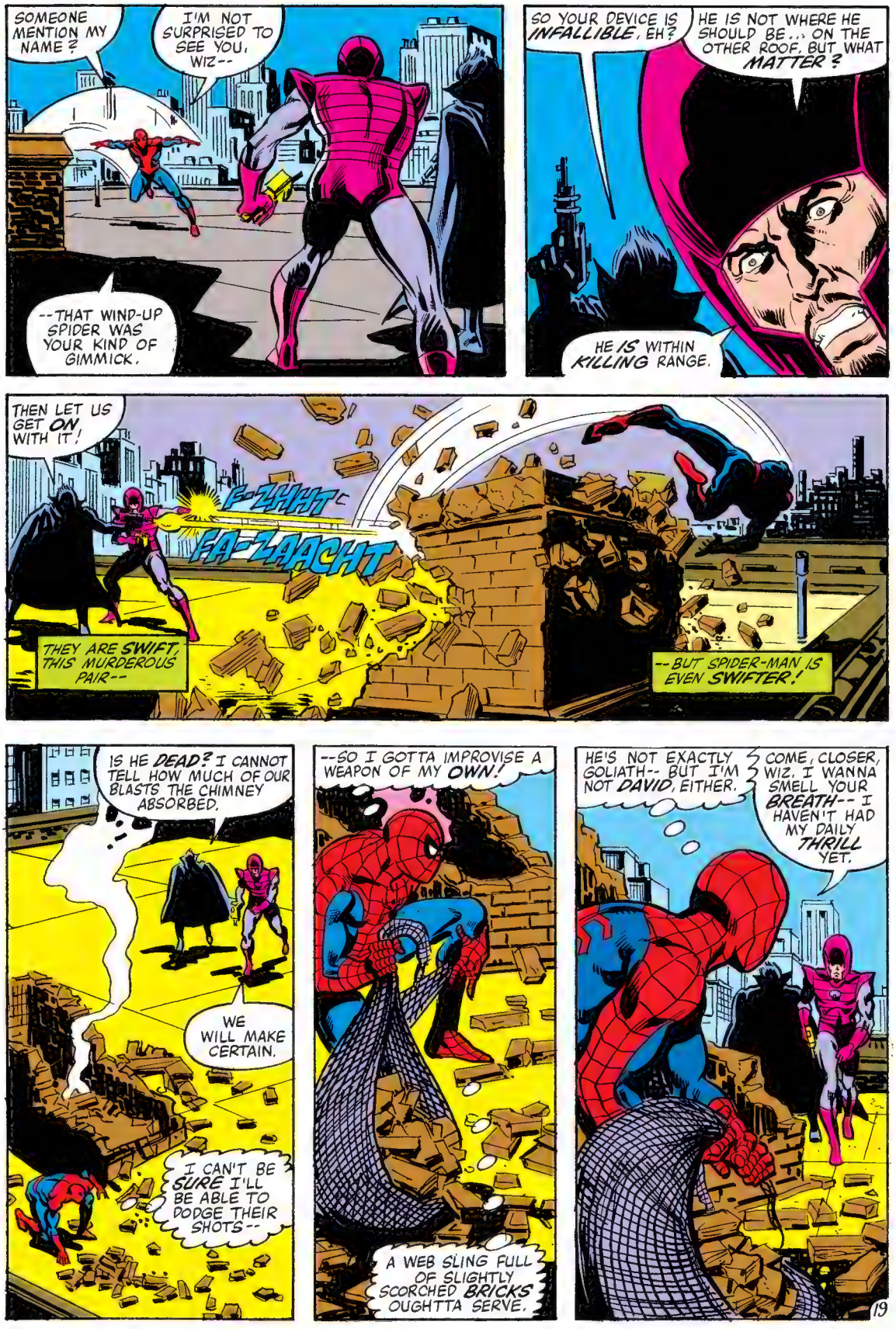
LONG, AGONIZING MINUTES PASS AS THREE WORKMEN BATTLE DESPAIR. THEN--
IT'S NO USE, WE'RE TRAPPED --HEY!
YOU HEAR SOMETHIN'?


IT'S ONLY YOUR FRIENDLY, NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN-- DOING HIS WORLD-FAMOUS MOLE IMPRESSION.
BY THE WAY ...YOU'RE SAVED--
--AND MY BELT CAMERA GOT ALL THE PICS I NEED.

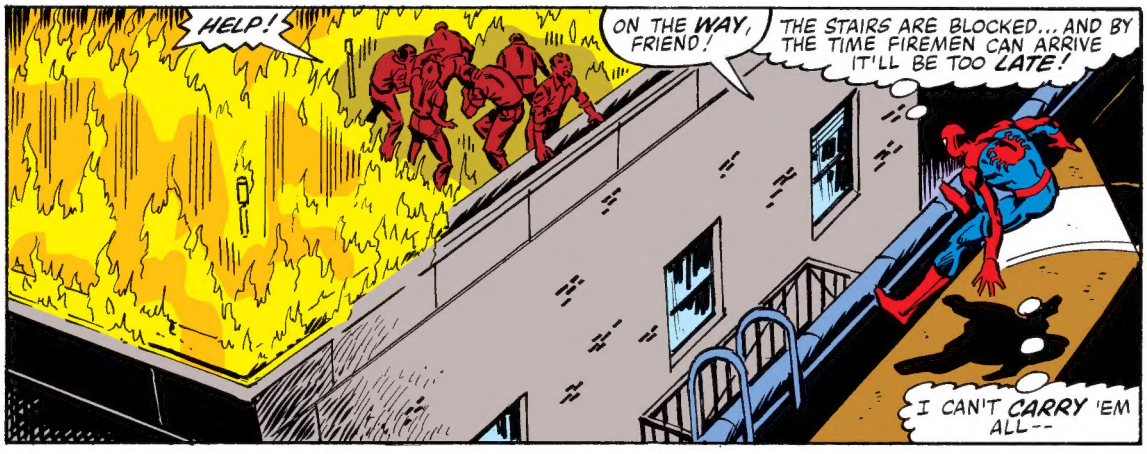

THAT LITTLE RESCUE OPERATION TOOK ALMOST TEN MINUTES...

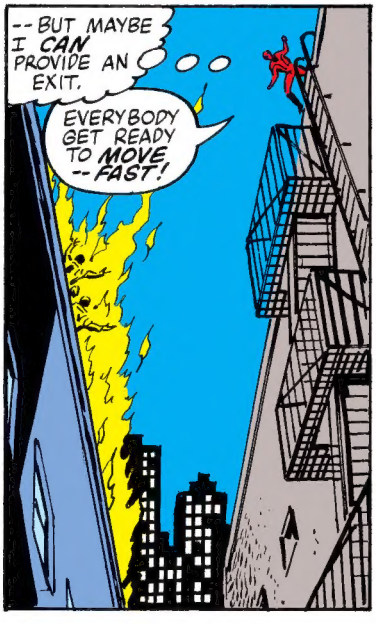

...GONNA MAKE ME LATE FOR THE MEETING!
MY GORGEOUS NEW NEIGHBOR WILL GET THE IDEA I'M UNRELIABLE. SHEESH!
HEY! SPIDEY-SENSE IS BUZZING--?

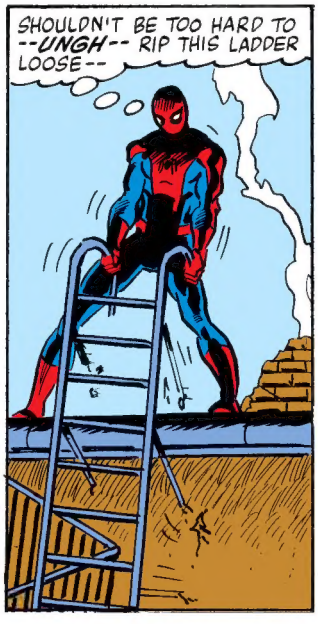

OTHERS ARE EQUALLY INTERESTED IN THAT MEETING...
THEY ARE ALL ASSEMBLED NOW SPIDER-MAN MUST BE AMONG THEM.
IF YOUR DEVICE IS ACCURATE.
AND THERE IS THE REASON WHY!


SOMEONE MENTION MY NAME?
I'M NOT SURPRISED TO SEE YOU, WIZ--
--THAT WIND-UP SPIDER WAS YOUR KIND OF GIMMICK.
SO YOUR DEVICE IS INFALLIBLE, EH?
HE IS NOT WHERE HE SHOULD BE... ON THE OTHER ROOF. BUT WHAT MATTER?
HE IS WITHIN KILLING RANGE.
THEN LET US GET ON WITH IT!
F-ZHHT
FA-ZAACHT
THEY ARE SWIFT, THIS MURDEROUS PAIR--
--BUT SPIDER-MAN IS EVEN SWIFTER!
IS HE DEAD? I CANNOT TELL HOW MUCH OF OUR BLASTS THE CHIMNEY ABSORBED.
WE WILL MAKE CERTAIN.
I CAN'T BE SURE I'LL BE ABLE TO DODGE THEIR SHOTS--
--SO I GOTTA IMPROVISE A WEAPON OF MY OWN!
A WEB SLING FULL OF SLIGHTLY SCORCHED BRICKS OUGHTTA SERVE.
HE'S NOT EXACTLY GOLIATH-- BUT I'M NOT DAVID, EITHER.
COME, CLOSER, WIZ. I WANNA SMELL YOUR BREATH-- I HAVEN'T HAD MY DAILY THRILL YET.

ON SECOND THOUGHT... YOU CAN HAVE THE THRILL.
YOU PEOPLE GET STONED OFTEN?
DROPPED YOUR NASTY OL' GUNS, HUH?
YOU MIGHT CONSIDER GIVING UP BEFORE YOU REALLY GET HURT!
I SAY THIS--
--YOU CAN CAPTURE US ONLY AT TREMENDOUS COST!
HOW MANY LIVES IS YOUR TRIUMPH WORTH?
A TOUCH OF A STUD ON THE WIZARD'S SLEEVE--
--AND AN ELECTRONIC SIGNAL DETONATES A SERIES OF FIRE BOMBS PLANTED EARLIER ON TOP OF PETER PARKER'S APARTMENT BUILDING...
FAWOOSH
MY FELLOW TENANTS ...TRAPPED! EVERY ONE OF THEM IS AT THE MEETING...
...THEY'LL BE BURNED ALIVE!

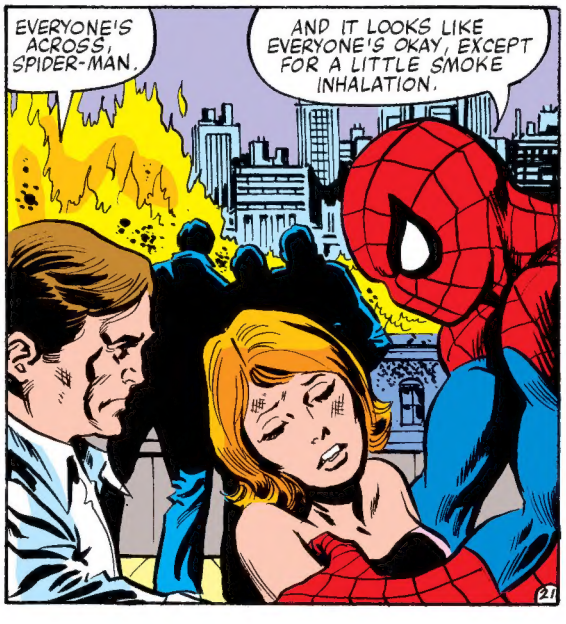

HELP!
ON THE WAY, FRIEND!
THE STAIRS ARE BLOCKED... AND BY THE TIME FIREMEN CAN ARRIVE IT'LL BE TOO LATE!
I CAN'T CARRY 'EM ALL--

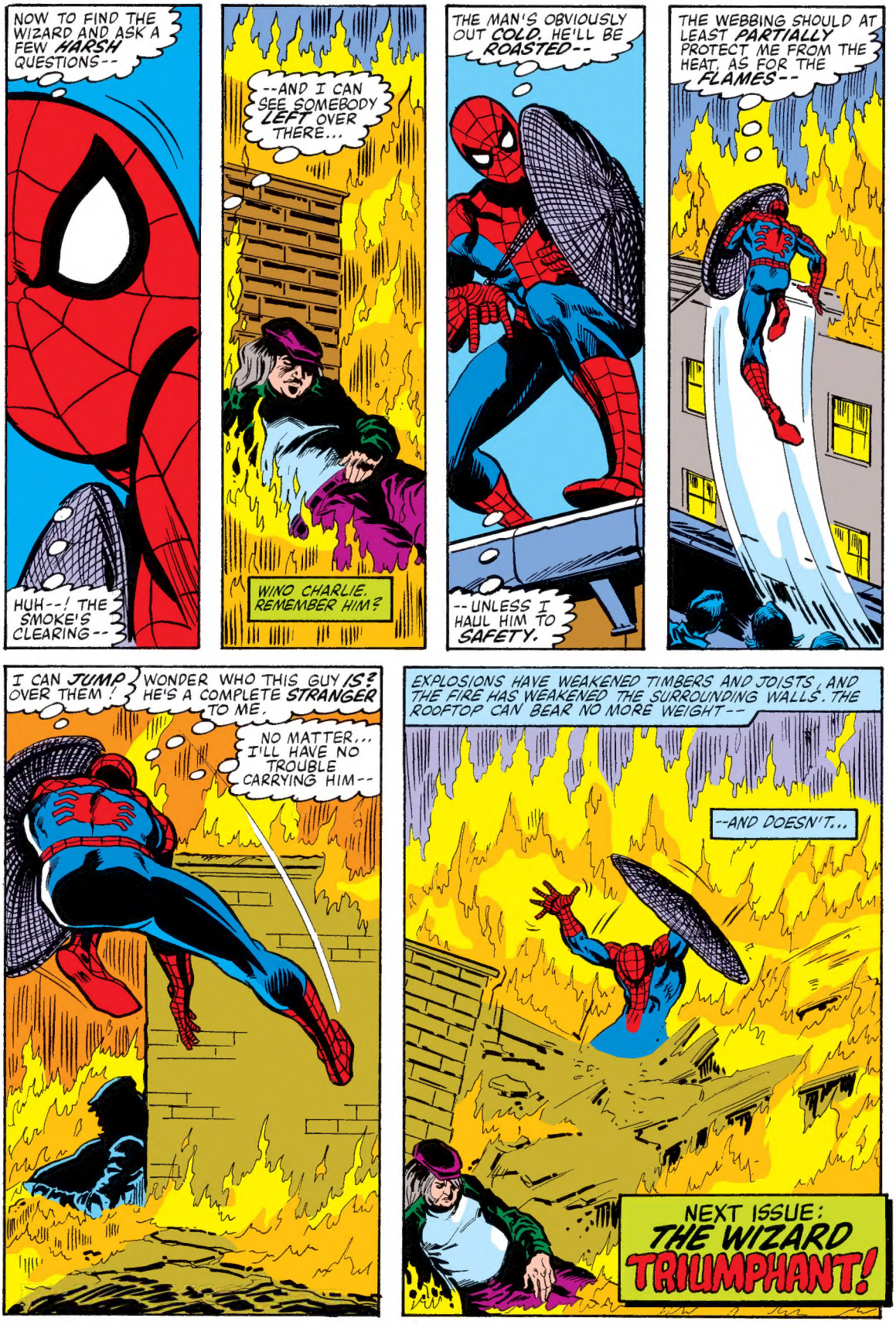

--BUT MAYBE I CAN PROVIDE AN EXIT.
EVERYBODY GET READY TO MOVE --FAST!


SHOULDN'T BE TOO HARD TO --UNGH-- RIP THIS LADDER LOOSE--

--AND TURN IT INTO A BRIDGE!

STEP LIVELY, FOLKS. YOU DON'T WANNA BE THE LAST ONE TO LEAVE THE MARSHMALLOW ROAST.
WHY DID THE WIZARD RIG THOSE BOMBS? HE HAS NOTHING TO GAIN BY MURDERING INNOCENT BYSTANDERS.


EVERYONE'S ACROSS, SPIDER-MAN.
AND IT LOOKS LIKE EVERYONE'S OKAY, EXCEPT FOR A LITTLE SMOKE INHALATION.


NOW TO FIND THE WIZARD AND ASK A FEW HARSH QUESTIONS--
HUH--! THE SMOKE'S CLEARING--
--AND I CAN SEE SOMEBODY LEFT OVER THERE...
WINO CHARLIE. REMEMBER HIM?
THE MAN'S OBVIOUSLY OUT COLD. HE'LL BE ROASTED--
--UNLESS I HAUL HIM TO SAFETY.
THE WEBBING SHOULD AT LEAST PARTIALLY PROTECT ME FROM THE HEAT, AS FOR THE FLAMES--
I CAN JUMP OVER THEM!
WONDER WHO THIS GUY IS? HE'S A COMPLETE STRANGER TO ME.
NO MATTER... I'LL HAVE NO TROUBLE CARRYING HIM--
EXPLOSIONS HAVE WEAKENED TIMBERS AND JOISTS, AND THE FIRE HAS WEAKENED THE SURROUNDING WALLS. THE ROOFTOP CAN BEAR NO MORE WEIGHT--
--AND DOESN'T...
NEXT ISSUE: THE WIZARD TRIUMPHANT!

Shadowcat